

Project Name: Avert Project
Agreement Type: *Bilateral*
Duration: *1999-2011*
Geographic Scope: *Maharashtra State & Goa*
Technical Assistance Agencies: *Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust (HLFPPT); Johns Hopkins University/Health Communication Partnership (JHU/HCP)*
Implementing Agency: *Avert Society, Mumbai*

DESCRIPTION:

The Avert Project was launched in November, 2001, to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in the state of Maharashtra with a population of over 98 million people. The \$41.5 million Avert Project is a bilateral agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India, and involves the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), the Government of Maharashtra, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The first phase of the Avert Project ended in September 2006. The phase-II of the Avert Project has been launched and is for the period 2006-2011.

The Objectives of the phase-II of Avert Project are:

- Scale up prevention activities to saturate (85 to 90%) coverage of high-risk groups and vulnerable populations in selected core districts.
- Develop a networked model to provide integrated prevention, care and treatment services to people living with HIV/AIDS in selected core districts.
- Support technical support units in Maharashtra and Goa states to build the capacity of state AIDS societies, NGOs, public and private health care institutions and other agencies for ensuring the sustainability of the program.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Prevention programs among high-risk groups and vulnerable populations.
- Care and treatment programs including counseling and testing services.
- Communication activities for prevention, care and treatment programs.
- Supporting technical support units in Maharashtra and Goa States to build the capacity of Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society, Goa State AIDS Control Society, NGOs, CBOs and public and private health care institutions.
- State-wide condom social marketing program.
- Targeted Evaluation including mapping of high-risk-population, evaluative and impact assessments.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Over 70 NGO grants supported to implement targeted interventions among high-risk groups, workplace interventions and care and treatment programs.
- Over 3000 peer educators trained to carry out behavior change activities among high-risk groups
- BSS third round completed.
- Pilot project on gender integration in care and support program implemented.
- Support provided to 9 networks of positive people to expand care and support programs.
- Consistent condom use among truckers increased from 68 % in 2004 to 84 % in 2005.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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